Operator Training

Spill Prevention

D H E C

PROMOTE PROTECT PROSPER

South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

Spill Prevention Means…

Preventing releases that could occur when fuel is being delivered to a tank

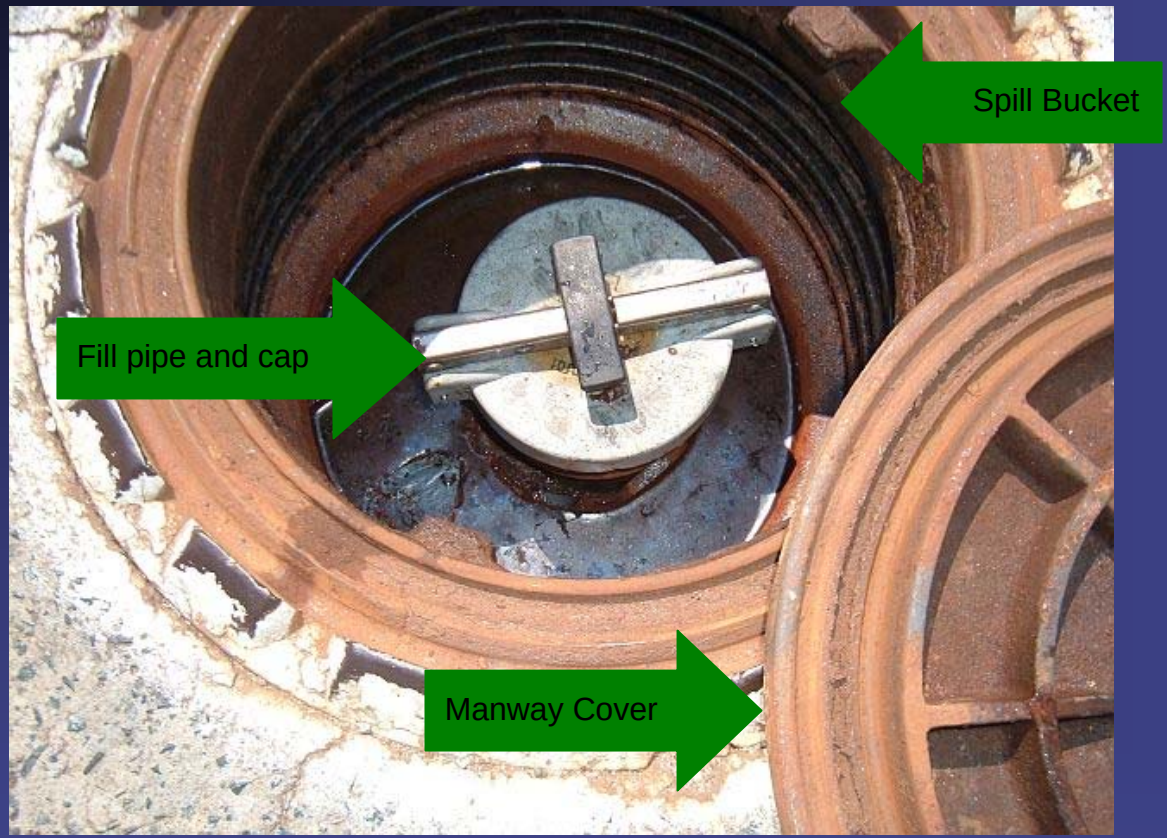
Spill Prevention

When a delivery driver connects and disconnects the fuel hose from the fill pipe, some fuel will drip out of the hose. Also, if the delivery is not completed or stopped before the overfill device shuts off the delivery, a lot of fuel could be left in the hose. This fuel has to go somewhere and it cannot go back into the truck. This is why spill buckets are required to be placed around fill pipes.

Spill Prevention

- Tank systems must be equipped with a spill bucket (spill containment basin) if fuel is introduced into the tank by 25 gallons or more at a time (only exception is a waste oil tank)
- Most spill buckets have a capacity of 5-25 gallons
- Typical delivery hoses can hold about 14 gallons of fuel

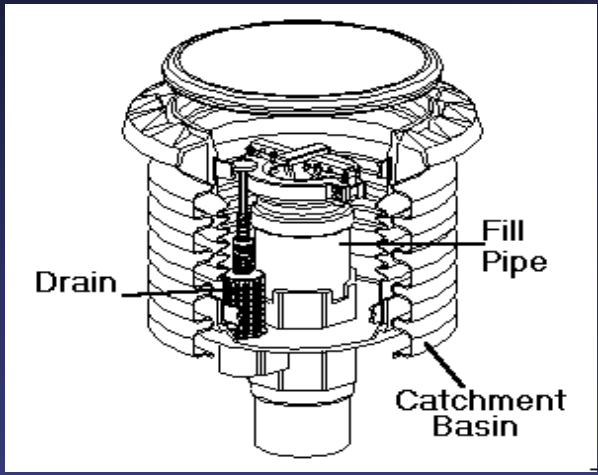
Spill Prevention



A spill bucket surrounds a fill pipe and is usually under its own manway cover.

Spill Prevention

There are several ways to have spill prevention:



Spill Bucket

Metal spill boxes

Diked area with collection basin

Spill Prevention
Operation & Maintenance

While spill buckets are there to catch any fuel left in the hose after a delivery, they are not designed to hold fuel for extended periods of time. After every delivery, check each spill bucket to ensure:

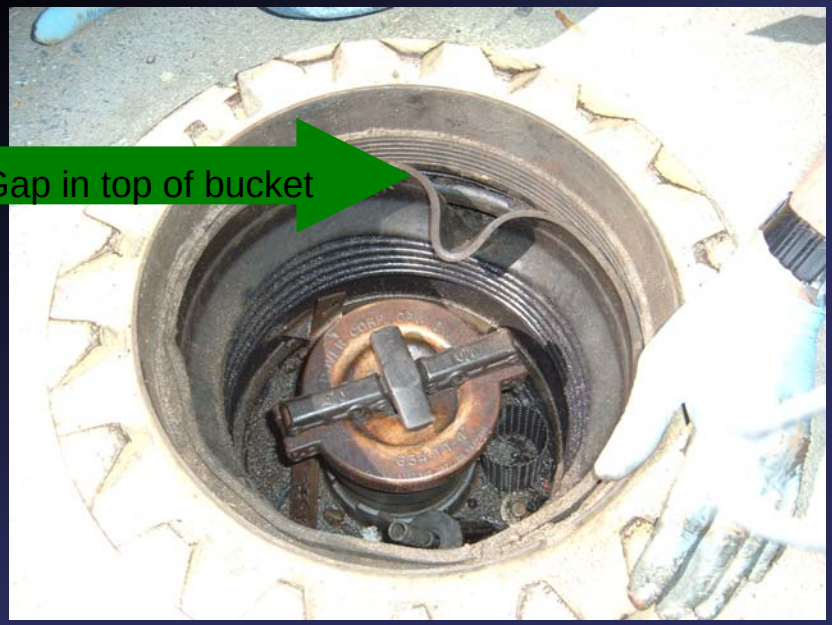
- It is clean and free of trash and liquids
- There are no holes or cracks
- That metal buckets have not rusted through
- That bands and rubber gaskets are tight and properly positioned so that the spill bucket is not able to pull away from the fill pipe
- That it still holds liquid and does not leak

Spill Prevention
Operation & Maintenance

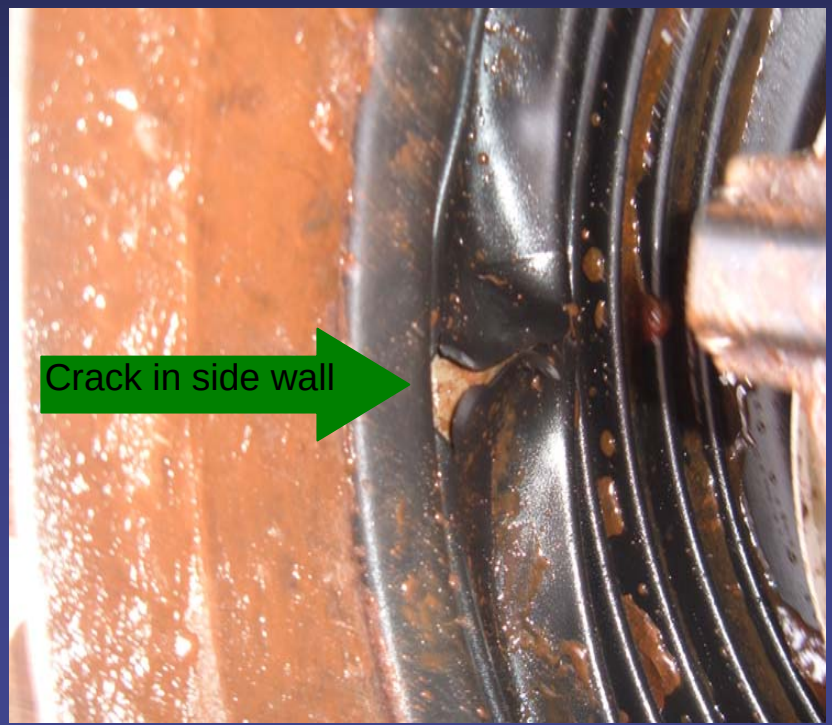
Spill buckets are maintenance items that must be periodically replaced.

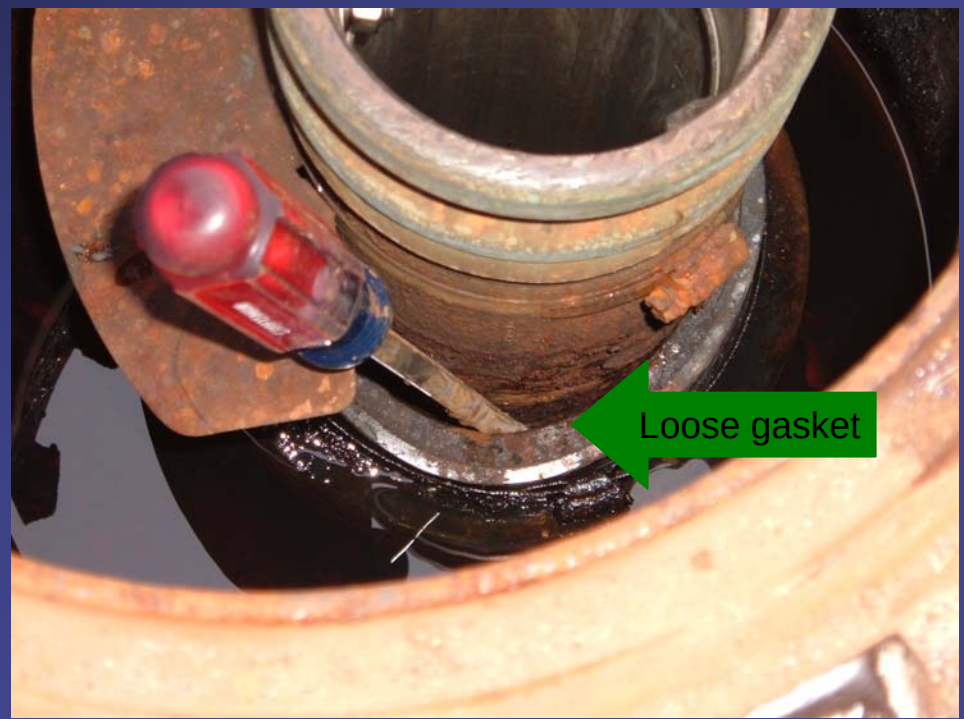
Spill Prevention

Some spill buckets have a valve installed in the bottom of the bucket that opens directly into the tank. This valve is used to drain any fuel left over after a delivery into the tank instead of having to manually remove it. This is a very important reason to continually remove liquid and trash. If there is trash and water in the spill bucket it will drain back into the tank along with any fuel.



Common failure points on spill buckets





Only one gallon of fuel leaking each week from a poorly maintained spill bucket can result in up to 195 tons of contaminated soil a year! One gallon of fuel can contaminate one million gallons of water!